RG104 entry 217 box 2

Branch Mint of the United States
Carson City, Nv.
November 29, 1869

Hon. James Pollock,
Director of the Mint

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letters of 19th inst. relative to the account of Mr. Lentz, and also concerning the delay occasioned by the non-appearance of our Melter & Refiner.

The commission of Mr. Luther as Melter and Refiner came to hand on the 18th inst. I immediately wrote him informing him of its arrival and requesting his immediate presence here, also enclosing your decision contained in letter of 25th ulto. in reference to performance of his duties by proxy or deputy. After waiting several days for a replay, I telegraphed him on the 24th inst., receiving the same day a telegram herewith enclosed.

It has now been five days since this telegram was received, and I do not deem it expedient to wait longer in as much as a letter from him, if mailed when the telegram was sent, would have reached here three days since. I am credibly informed that the business of Mr. Luther in White Pine (where he is now) is worth to him $1,000 per month and am told by the Clerk of our Supreme Court the Mr. Luther informed him that he considered the position of Melter & Refiner here of no use to him, that it would not pay him, etc.

I have anticipated for some time that in this particular we should be delayed and have used every effort to facilitate the preparation of his bonds and the issuance of his Commission, in order that I might be enabled to demand his presence or resignation. I most strenuously urge immediate action in the matter.

We have been ready for this officer for some time, have fitted up the refinery and, melting rooms without his presence and only await his arrival, and that of our Assayer, to commence operations. Bullion is constantly arriving here and being shipped to other parts of the country which would, if we were prepared to receive it, be deposited with this Branch, and the worst feature of the case is that we are totally unable to state definitely to gentlemen proposing to deposit with us <u>when we can</u> receive their bullion.

I have several skilled men here some who have come on from the east, whose places it will be almost impossible to fill were they to go away. To keep these men I must pay them. Especially is this the case with gentlemen who came from the east to act as clerks. It is simply impossible to replace them here and they can command better salaries in this region that those allowed by Government.

I respectfully submit that the delay in opening this Branch is in no way attributable to me, and inquire what course I am to pursue regarding the men above alluded to. Shall I retain them until the officers of the Branch are here, or discharge them and take the chances of supplying their places whenever we shall be ready?

I most earnestly hope that you will take prompt action in this case, and decide upon the above queries.

Can you not recommend some good man as Melter & Refiner from your acquaintance, procure his appointment and commission, and send him on shortly? This continued delay is very disheartening. As you are aware I have fitted up this Mint at my own risk, incurring extensive personal liability, solely from a desire to see it in successful operation as soon as possible. I am anxious to make a good showing before the adjournment of Congress next spring that the appropriation required to meet outstanding liabilities may be more readily granted. There will be no difficulty in this if we can start shortly.

I will send you within a few days the amount of outstanding bills for putting in machinery and fitting up the Mint

Yours respectfully,
A. Curry,
Superintendent